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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Friday, November 14, 2008

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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AAC Minutes (Nov. 14)

In attendance: Wendy Brandon, Debra Wellman, Jim Small, Eric Zivot, Steve St. John, Scott Rubarth, Susan Lackman, Yusheng Yao, Alex Grammenos, Tocarra Mallard

1. Minutes from Nov. 4 approved.
2. Tentative members of the Pilot RP Review Committee include: 1) one faculty member from each division—Eileen Gregory (Natural Sciences), Robert Sherry (Expressive Arts), Dennis Cummings (Humanities), Sharon Carnahan (Social Sciences); 2) one from each division appointed by AAC—Eric Small(?), Laurel Goj (Natural Sciences), Susan Lackman (Express Arts), Philip Kozel (Social Sciences); 3) two students representatives appointed by AAC—Alex Grammeros and Kory Eylmann. The term will be two years.
3. Wendy reported what she had learned from the most recent Executive Committee meeting regarding Holt School's redefinition. Board of trustee charged the provost with brainstorming of reform plan for Holt. AAC members agreed with Wendy that the key issue was where AAC fit in this process. The consensus was that anything concerning academic affairs of Holt—evaluation of its courses, curriculum and program should go through AAC. AAC charged Wendy to write letters to the provost as well as the director of Holt reminding them this charge of AAC by the by-law and the connections between Holt's redefinition and the curriculum. AAC's charge for academic affairs of the A&S should also apply to quality control of study abroad program in the jurisdiction of the international program.
4. Discussion about the proposal by the Curriculum Reform and Renewal Committee to reduce the required graduation time from 140 to 128 hours. Wendy reported all the implications by this change she had learned from the discussion of Executive Committee meeting. She would relay these issues and other concerns expressed in AAC's discussion to the CRRC. (AAC members' concern included the impact of this change on the student's aid from the state and on the graduate schools' expectations to our graduates, etc. Scott pointed out that the numbers [of 120-128 hours] do not mean anything until further defined and clarified: What is an hour exactly in this proposal? AAC would suggest a colloquium about the CRRC's proposal by the end of the semester (either Dec. 5 at 3:30 or after the faculty meeting on Dec.10.)
5. Next AAC meeting is set at 5 pm on Nov. 25.